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July 6, 1900 1716

Sanitary report from Rio de Janeiro.

I have the honor to transmit to you the official report for the week ended May 18.

There were 263 deaths from all causes, an increase of 15 as compared with the preceding week; 17 deaths from accesso pernicioso, an increase of 5; 3 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 6; 5 deaths from smallpox, an increase of 3; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, a decrease of 2; no deaths from diphtheria, 1 before; 2 deaths from beriberi, an increase of 1, and 54 deaths from tuberculosis, an increase of 4.

Bills of health.

Since last report the following named ship has been inspected and received bill of health of this office: May 27, steamship *Wordsworth*, Belgian, for New York.

Respectfully,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U.S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Report from Belize—Fruit port.

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS, June 22, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report excellent health conditions in this port. Only 1 death—from apoplexy—reported during the week. The steamer *Stillwater* (Galt) clears for New Orleans this a. m., 32 in crew, 1 passenger, cargo, fruit and mail. The steamer *Managua* (Gundersen) also clears this a. m. for Mobile, Ala.; 16 in crew, 3 passengers, cargo, fruit. Ten pieces disinfected.

Respectfully,

NORWOOD K. VANCE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U.S. M. H.S.

The Surgeon-General,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Dead fish and disease.

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS, June 21, 1900.

SIR: I wish to trespass on your valuable time and give you some of my observations made in this country, recalled by the article in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS of May 25, lent me by Dr. Vance, on pages 1312 and 1313, headed by propagation of plague by infected fish, extracts from local journals of Japan, April 24.

I was stationed at Santa Marta, United States of Colombia, in 1893. There were in November and December, 1892, millions of dead fish all over the coast. No one could account for the phenomenon, as it was an unusual occurrence. The natives all over the coast and in the interior of Rio Frio section live principally on fish dried in the sun and shipped in large quantities. In April, of 1893, when I arrived, the country was just recovering from an epidemic of glandular swellings in all parts of the body. My diagnosis was that it came from using purely a fish diet, not attributing this to the dead fish of three months previous There were very few fatal cases, although many cases were very bad. After reading the article above-mentioned, it recalls a circumstance happening here at Belize in October and November, 1899. There